

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. – 8. (canceled)

9. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein when the water is released a slurry of the ground coffee is formed.

10. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 17, further comprising a heating element in heating communication with the retention vessel.

11. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the heating element is arranged to heat water that is subsequently provided to the at least one water inlet.

12. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the retention vessel includes a discharge spout operable to dispense the aqueous liquid from the retention vessel.

13. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 17, further comprising control elements to control at least one of the (a) amount of water released, (b) the temperature of the released water or (c) the operation of the agitator motor.

14. – 16. (canceled)

17. (previously presented) An apparatus comprising:

at least one water inlet to provide water to be released onto ground coffee;  
a retention vessel to receive an aqueous liquid;  
a stationary ground coffee holder positioned between the at least one water inlet and the retention vessel and having a bottom effective to retain the ground coffee and permit passage of aqueous liquid;  
an agitator motor; and  
a coffee agitator connected to the agitator motor effective to agitate and substantially to maintain the evenness of the depth of the ground coffee in the coffee holder when the agitator motor is operating, the coffee agitator having protrusions to extend downwardly into the ground coffee at least when the apparatus is in operation;  
wherein the protrusions have a circular cross-sectional shape that is flared on a free end.

18. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the protrusions have varying lengths so as to generally follow a shape of the coffee holder.

19. (original) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the protrusions are positioned at an angle with respect to an x-axis of an x-y axis of a plane of rotation of the coffee agitator.

20. (original) The apparatus of claim 19, wherein the angle is approximately 15 degrees.

21. (canceled)